

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An isolated transgenic mouse comprising a suspected modulator of the development of atrioventricular septal defects, wherein the genome of said mouse comprises a heterozygous disruption of the CCN1 gene[.]] and wherein said mouse has an atrioventricular septal defect.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The mouse of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-3~~, wherein said mouse is an embryo.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A method of producing a mouse with an atrioventricular septal defect[[s]], comprising:

- (a) producing a transgenic mouse whose genome comprises a heterozygous disruption of the CCN1 gene;
- (b) testing the transgenic mouse for the presence of a ~~phenotype associated with~~ an atrioventricular septal defect[[s]]; and
- (c) identifying a transgenic mouse that has a ~~phenotype associated with~~ an atrioventricular septal defect[[s]].

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a mouse with an atrioventricular septal defect[[s]], comprising testing a transgenic mouse whose genome comprises a heterozygous disruption of the *CCN1* gene for the presence of ~~a phenotype associated with~~ an atrioventricular septal defect[[s]].

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a modulator of the development of atrioventricular septal defects, comprising:

- (a) contacting a plurality of transgenic mouse embryos with a suspected modulator, wherein the genome of each of said embryos comprises a heterozygous disruption of the *CCN1* gene;
- (b) measuring ~~phenotypes associated with~~ atrioventricular septal defects in said transgenic mouse embryos or in postnatal mice arising therefrom; and
- (c) calculating the percentage of said embryos or said postnatal mice displaying an atrioventricular septal defect ~~at least one of said~~ ~~phenotypes~~, wherein a percentage of said embryos or said postnatal mice displaying ~~at least one of said phenotypes~~ an atrioventricular septal defect above or below 65% identifies a modulator.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) A method of identifying an animal that is predisposed to atrioventricular septal defects, comprising detecting the presence of an alteration in one or more alleles of the *CCN1* gene in a sample comprising DNA isolated from said animal.